

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — DAILY DIGEST

1954

PAINT MANUFACTURING

Committee on Government Operations: The Harden Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations considered its report on the manufacture of paint. Took no final action and adjourned subject to call of the Chair.

HATCH ACT

Committee on House Administration: The Subcommittee on Elections heard Representative Small, of Maryland, in connection with a measure he introduced (H. R. 1418) to repeal those portions of the Hatch Act which prohibit officers and employees in the Federal Government from taking an active part in political management or in political campaigns. Other witnesses today were Lawrence B. Meloy, Chief Law Officer of the Civil Service Commission; and John P. Simpson, Sr., a Government employee with the Interstate Commerce Commission. Recessed to a date yet to be determined, at which time the CSC Chairman is expected to testify.

TERRITORIES—INDIANS—PUBLIC LANDS

Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs: Ordered the following bills reported to the House—

H. R. 1570, amended, to permit the Territory of Alaska to lease for 55 years (now 10 years) public lands reserved for educational purposes;

H. R. 2683, amended, to extend authority to the Secretary of the Interior to provide public works and enter into agreements with applicants under the Alaska Public Works Act of 1950;

H. R. 2848, to place the wharves and landings constructed or controlled by the Republic of Hawaii completely under the Territorial government;

H. R. 2974, amended, to add to the revised roll of the Indians of California certain Indians who made application for enrollment within the time fixed by law;

H. R. 4481, amended, to authorize enrolled members of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Reservation, Mont., to acquire interests in tribal lands of the reservation;

H. R. 6154, amended, to authorize payment of salaries and expenses of officials of the Fort Peck Tribe;

S. 79, amended, relating to non-Federal cave properties within the authorized boundaries of Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky; and

S. 1160, conveyance of certain land to the city of Tucson, Ariz.

Passed over without prejudice H. R. 2849, to amend the act to authorize the transfer of land from the War Department to the Territory of Hawaii, regarding public parks; and H. R. 4118, to authorize the preparation of rolls of persons of Indian blood whose ancestors were members of certain tribes of bands in the State of Oregon, relative to fund distribution. Also agreed to request conference with Senate on amendments to H. R. 2846, authorizing the President to exercise certain powers conferred upon him by the Hawaiian Organic

Act in respect of certain property ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawaii.

Announced appointment of Representative Rogers of Texas to membership on the Public Lands Subcommittee.

POSTAL EMPLOYEE SALARIES

Committee on Post Office and Civil Service: Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield today presented to the Congress a plan for correcting pay inequities which would result in salary increases for more than 400,000 of the 500,000 employees in the postal field services. The plan was prepared by an independent management engineering firm after a detailed study of the postal salary structure. According to Mr. Summerfield, the proposal would provide "the first modern salary plan for field personnel in the history of the Post Office Department; and offer much-needed incentive for better work and would bring postal salaries more nearly in line with those prevailing in industry." He added that the proposed pay plan would add about \$80 million a year to post-office salaries.

Principal features of the proposed plan are:

1. Starting salaries generally would be increased. Entrance rates of clerks and carriers would be increased by \$210 a year; their maximum rates would be increased by \$100 or about 5 cents an hour.
2. More adequate pay differentials are provided for employees with higher skills, supervisors, and managerial personnel who, at present, have little incentive to rise above routine work levels.
3. The time required for most employees to advance from the minimum to the maximum salary rate for their job would be reduced, in most cases by 2 years.
4. Supervisors, who at present have single rates for their jobs, would be given the opportunity to progress within a rate range.
5. The recommendations specify that the salary of no individual employee be decreased as a result of the application of this new plan.

Hearings were recessed until tomorrow when the Postmaster General, again accompanied by his staff, will return for committee questioning.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Committee on Public Works: Continued hearings on H. R. 7818, and related bills, which would amend the Federal-Aid Road Act to authorize appropriations for continuing construction of highways. Urging favorable action on the general purposes of the proposed legislation today were Conrad L. Wirth, Director, National Parks Service, Department of the Interior; J. Maughs Brown, Chief of the Branch of Roads, Indian Bureau; Robert F. Woodward, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs; George Koss, Associated General Contractors of America; William B. Hartsfield, mayor of Atlanta, Ga., and past president of the American Municipal Association; John V. Lawrence, president, American Trucking Association; and C. Emerson Duncan, attorney, American Public Power Association.

Hearings will be continued tomorrow afternoon.

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FLOOD CONTROL

Committee on Public Works: The Mack subcommittee opened hearings today on flood-control authorizations for projects on which the Chief of Engineers has submitted favorable reports since the passage of the Flood Control Act of 1950. Maj. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, Chief of Engineers, presented the testimony of the Corps of Engineers with a report on the status of the Federal flood-control program, together with his recommendations for further supplementing the authorized program. General Sturgis was accompanied by Brig. Gen. E. C. Itschner, Deputy Assistant Chief of Engineers for Civil Works; and Col. Alfred D. Starbird, Assistant Chief of Civil Works for Flood Control.

Colonel Starbird explained the Susquehanna River project (Endicott, Johnson City, and Vestal, N. Y.), in connection with which testimony was received from Representative Cole of New York; Horace Evans, executive director, New York State Flood Control Committee; and P. Clay Knickerbocker, chairman, West Broome County Flood Control Committee. Recessed until tomorrow morning.

MEXICAN FARM LABOR—FEDERAL CONTRACTS

Committee on Rules: Considered, but postponed further action to a later date, a rule for H. J. Res. 355, regarding recruitment of agricultural labor from the Republic of Mexico. Representatives Hope and August H. Andresen appeared on behalf of the legislation, and Representatives Cooley and McCormack spoke in opposition to it.

Also agreed to schedule consideration for tomorrow morning (Wednesday), a rule for H. R. 1825, Federal Construction Contract Act.

COMMUNISM IN EDUCATION

Committee on Un-American Activities: The Scherer subcommittee resumed hearings in connection with the investigation it conducted in November 1953 regarding alleged communism in educational circles of Philadelphia, Pa. Eight of the nine teachers called today refused to answer counsel's questions by invoking their constitutional rights under the fifth amendment, pleading possible self-incrimination. The ninth, Dr. Wilbur Lee Mahaney, a social science teacher in West Philadelphia High School, admitted that he once held membership in a Red cell in that city from 1935 to 1948. Regarding all other questions, such as identity of others in the cell and certain teacher organizations, the witness refused to make any divulgements. His refusal to answer any other questions was not made by using the fifth amendment, but, as he told Committee Counsel Kunzig, that he "simply would not answer any other questions."

The eight witnesses refusing to answer were Delphia Augenblick, Angelina Intille, Eleanor Fleet, Francis P. Jennings, Samuel Draskin, Wesley Randall, Abraham

Egnal, and Harry N. Dubin. Subcommittee recessed until tomorrow morning.

VFW PROGRAM

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: National Commander Wayne E. Richards, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, presented the 1954 legislative program of his organization today. Omar B. Ketchum, national legislative director of the VFW, also appeared. Recessed to tomorrow morning to hear Veterans' Administrator Higley in executive session.

LIFE INSURANCE

Committee on Ways and Means: Set up a subcommittee today to study the taxation of life-insurance companies. Members appointed were Representatives Curtis of Missouri (chairman), Knox, Utt, Mills, and Gregory.

The full committee made public yesterday an agreement to extend for 1 more year the present "stopgap" formula for taxing life-insurance companies. Chairman Reed stated that the purpose of the subcommittee announced today is to develop "a permanent basis" for the taxation of these companies.

GENERAL TAX REVISION

Committee on Ways and Means: Announced that the following substantive changes were agreed to today during consideration of the revenue revision bill of 1954—

FILING DATE FOR TAX RETURNS

Adopted a provision postponing from March 15 to April 15 the date for filing individual income-tax returns. It is believed that this change will greatly relieve the difficulties taxpayers presently have in preparing their returns by the present filing date.

This change in the return date also involves the postponing from March 15 to April 15 of the filing date for the declaration of estimated tax (and the first payment of estimated tax). However, no changes were made in the case of the present June 15, September 15, and January 15 dates for amending declarations of estimated tax (and for the last three quarterly payments of estimated tax).

These changes in filing dates made by the committee are not applicable to any returns required to be filed in 1954.

Under present law farmers are required to file their declarations of estimated tax by January 15 or, if they do not wish to file their declarations by that time, file their final return by January 31. The committee moved up this alternative filing date for final returns of farmers from January 31 to February 15. It also extended the definition of farming to include oyster farming.

No change was made in the March 15 filing date for corporations except in the case of tax-exempt cooperatives. The filing date for the returns of these cooperatives was postponed until September 15 to coincide with their last date for declaring patronage dividends with respect to the prior year's business.

These changes were made as a part of the committee's consideration of the administrative provisions of the code. A more comprehensive explanation of the committee's actions with respect to the administrative provisions will be made when the consideration of this subject is completed.

Recessed until tomorrow morning.